

REMARKS

Applicants' Attorney thanks the Examiner in charge of this case for the courtesy of the interview held on October 11, 2005 wherein this case was discussed. This amendment includes the changes discussed at the interview and is believed to place the case in condition for allowance.

Thus, new claims 21 – 40 have been substituted for previous claims 1 – 20. The new claims have been presented in clean form for convenience. Claim 21 is the new generic method claim and claim 31 is the new generic apparatus claim.

The new generic process and apparatus claims effectively include features from previous dependent claims. Thus, for example, process claim 21 includes features from previous dependent claims 3, 4, 8 and 9. The container is specified to include a carbon coating on the internal surface of the container. Means is provided inside the container which shines ultraviolet light through the container to at least one ultraviolet light sensor outside of the container. The thickness of the carbon coating is determined by the sensor determining how much light passes through the container. The generic apparatus claim has been similarly amended.

This is believed to represent a significant advance in the art. The present invention effectively and simply determines the thickness of an internal carbon coating, a difficult task.

The applied art is not at all believed to teach or suggest the process or apparatus of the present invention.

The primary reference is the '018 patent. This reference inspects a coating on the external surface of a container with reflected light as clearly shown, for example, in Figure 1. There is no teaching of UV light, no teaching of an internal carbon coating, and no suggestion for positioning means inside the container which shines UV light through the container to an external sensor. The '167 reference is also not germane. Here again, there is no internal carbon coating and no means inside the container as claimed. The Japanese '092 reference is also not germane. This reference radiates UV light inside a container to sterilize the inside of the container. There is no suggestion whatever here analogous to Applicants' invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of these references represents a hindsight reconstruction of the references based on Applicants significant and improved teaching. Moreover, the cited art is generally non-analogous to Applicants' invention.


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New claims 22 and 32 are based on original claims 2 and 12. New claims 23 – 26 and 33 – 36 are based on original claims 4 – 7 and 14 – 17. New claims 27 and 37 are based on original claims 10 and 20. New claims 28 and 38 are supported for example in paragraph 0044 (starting on page 17) and paragraph 0051 (starting at the bottom of page 19). New claims 29 and 39 are supported in paragraph 0053 (starting on page 20) and by lens 126 in Figure 2. New claims 30 and 40 are supported for example in paragraphs 0033 and 0034 (starting on the bottom of page 11).

Favorable reconsideration and allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is urged to telephone the undersigned if there are any questions on these submissions.

Respectfully submitted,

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